

Encounter Church
Sunday February 16, 2025

Serve
Saved to Serve God First

INTRODUCTION: If you could ask God any question, right now, what would that question be?

I don't know if you've ever thought about it, but one of the most important questions you and I can ask God today is "*What does it really mean to serve You?*"

WHY IS THAT SO IMPORTANT?

1 Thessalonians 1:9- "Everyone is talking about how you welcomed us and how you turned away from idols to serve the true and living God."

WE HAVE BEEN SAVED TO SERVE

Hebrews 9:13-14- "The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!"

WE HAVE BEEN SAVED TO SERVE! AND IT GOES EVEN FURTHER

Deuteronomy 10:12- ".....what does the Lord your God require of you? He requires only that you fear the Lord your God, and live in a way that pleases him, and love him and serve him with all your heart and soul.

WHAT DOES IT REALLY MEAN TO SERVE GOD?

Matthew 6:24- ""No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

You serve money by calculating all your plans, your efforts, to benefit from what money promises you.

You calculate your whole life to benefit from what money promises you. Your life revolves around trying to put yourself in the position of the greatest benefit from money.

That's also what it means to serve God. You serve God by calculating all your plans and all your efforts to benefit from all that God promises to be for you.

Your life revolves around trying to put yourself under the waterfall of God's greatest blessing, positioning yourself for the greatest benefit God has to give — namely, himself.

THE BEST DEFINITION OF SERVING GOD FIRST!

To serve God is to follow the example of Jesus Christ and His earthy ministry to serve others! It's through following Christ we express our love for God and other people.

Mark 10:43-45- "Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

YOU AND I HAVE BEEN SAVED TO SERVE GOD FIRST WHICH EXPRESSES ITSELF IN SERVING OTHERS.

HOW DO I SERVE? MY ATTITUDE IN SERVING.

Psalms 100:2- "Serve the Lord with gladness;.."

Heavenly Father I'm going to serve you with gladness which expresses itself with serving others with gladness!

IS GOD PAYING ATTENTION TO HOW I SERVE

Deuteronomy 28:47- "Because you didn't serve the LORD your God joyfully and gladly above all else, you will serve your enemies—.."

Father because of who you are and what you've done for me, I will serve you with joy and gladness in my heart!

In serving you first, I'm going to serve others with joy and gladness in my heart.

FATHER, SERVING YOU AND OTHERS IS FUN!

HOW TO SERVE GOD WITH THE HONOR HE DESERVES:

1. Serve with Gladness in your Heart

I DON'T HAVE TO I GET TO! (PSALM 100:2)

2. Serve with an Open Heart

James 1:2- “My dear brothers and sisters, how can you claim to have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ if you favor some people over others?”

Don't be prejudice, serve with an open heart!

3. Serve with a Selfless Heart

Philippians 2:3-4- “Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.”

START WITH GOD FIRST, NOT YOU FIRST!

4. Serve with Courage in your Heart

2 Timothy 1:7 “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

NO FEAR

5. Serve with Love in your Heart

Galatians 5:14- “For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

IT ALL BEGINS AND ENDS WITH LOVE! “For God so loved the world...”.

CONCLUSION: You and I have been saved to serve God first!

Heavenly Father I want to follow my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in serving!

